

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1945.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Thomas Lamb Scott,

L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. Medical Officer of Health.

Henry Richard Day,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.
Certificate of R.S.I. for Inspectors
for Meat and other Foods.
Fellow of Sanitary Inspectors Asscn.

Albert Reginald Smith,
(until August 1945).

District Sanitary Inspector and Housing
Maintenance Officer.
Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint
Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
Certificate of R.S.I. for Inspectors
of Meat and other Foods.

John Harry Ellis,
(from April 1945 -
returned from H.M. Forces)

District Sanitary Inspector.
Certificate of R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint
Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
Certificate of R.S.I. for Inspectors
of Meat and other Foods.

Harry Hill,

District S anitary Inspector.
Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.
Certificate of R.S.I. for Inspectors of
Meat and other Foods.
Certificate of R.S.I. in Sanitary Science.
Diploma of Institution of Sanitary
Engineers.
Fellow of Sanitary Inspectors Asscn.

AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH.

1945.

TO THE CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS OF THE
AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my seventh Annual Report dealing with the work carried out by your Public Health Department for the Year 1945 and it is hoped that this will be the last Report in this shortened form.

This Report has been produced in collaboration with your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Henry R. Day.

Area of District (in acres).	89,767
Number of inhabited houses.	7,007
Rateable Value.	£171,833
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£ 715.19.5d.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

Overcrowding caused by the influx into the District of Evacuees and people formerly resident in nearby Towns has been relieved by reason of dwellings subject to Demolition Orders having been requisitioned and put into a reasonable state of repair to provide accommodation for the more urgent cases of overcrowding and by the gradual return of evacuees to their homes in other areas. There are still a number of young couples living in rooms and with parents. The Council's proposed housing schemes will alleviate this housing need. The Treatment of Scabies - a condition foreign to this District before evacuation and which has caused some anxiety - is now well in hand; Treatment is carried out at a Clinic established by the Axbridge Joint Isolation Hospital Board. The number of new cases has fallen considerably and there is no anxiety about this now.

EVACUATION.

Evacuation has resolved itself into dealing with a few individual families who are unable to return home. The Sick Bay establishment in this area was closed in February 1945 and I feel it should be placed on record how grateful I am personally and how much the Council and the Ministry of Health are indebted to the services given voluntarily by Mrs. Scott, as Matron of this Sick Bay; the many members of the Cheddar Red Cross Division and other organisations who gave their services free of charge. This has been a piece of war work which has received little publicity but which has been invaluable.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There has been no change in the general provisions for Nursing in the Home, Treatment Centres, Clinics and Hospitals.

INFESTATION.

The work of rodent control has been very much to the fore during the year. The Council has set apart one Officer for this work and a schedule of work done is included in this Report.

During the year some 10 rooms have been disinfested. The problem of bug infestation is not a very prominent one in this Rural District but when the occasion arises, strict measures are taken.

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1945.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Small Pox.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	47	37	-
Diphtheria.	4	4	-
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid).	-	-	-
Measles.	431	2	-
Whooping Cough.	31	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	2	2	1
Dysentery.	6	2	-
Malaria.	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	15	1	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	11	2	-

TUBERCULOSIS..

	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory.	26	6
Non-respiratory.	2	1

RATS and MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.
INFESTATION ORDER 1943.

Total number of Complaints or Reports of Rat Infestation.	66.
Number of cases where no definite signs of infestation could be found.	0.
Number of premises serviced by Somerset War Agricultural Executive Committee.	4.
Number of premises where infestation has been cleared prior to A.R.D.C. action.	1.
Number of premises dealt with by Axbridge R.D.C.	61.
Total number of holes found excluding traps set and bait boxes used.	889.

Total number of pre-baits laid.	1,704
Total number of poison baits laid.	867
Number of holes re-opened.	0
Total number of complaints of re-infestation.	10.

MILK and DAIRIES.

(a) Total number of Registered Dairy Farms.	867
(b) Number of Retailers.	103
(c) Number of Producer-Retailers included in (b).	88
(d) Number of Licensed pasteurising plants.	Nil.
(e) Number of Heat-Treatment plants not included in (d)	1.
Tuberculin Tested Milk Licences.	72.
Accredited Milk Licences.	75.
Pasteurised Milk Licences.	3.
Heat-Treatment Milk Licences.	1.

INSPECTION of COWSHEDS: - 1945.

Informal Notices served.	83.
Informal Notices complied with.	157.
Formal Notices served.	80.
Formal Notices complied with.	62.

MILK SAMPLES.

	<u>Number Taken.</u>	<u>Results.</u>
Retail Supplies.	81.	51 - Good. 17 - Fair. 3 - Poor. 5 - Bad. 1 - Very poor. 4 - Very bad.
Tuberculin Tested.	298	198 - Satisfactory. 100 - Unsatisfactory
Accredited.	362	²²⁸ 288 - Satisfactory. 134 - Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised.	33	29 - Satisfactory. 4 - Unsatisfactory
Heat-Treatment.	9	8 - Satisfactory. 1 - Unsatisfactory
Mixed Herd (Tubercle Test).	57	56 - Negative. 1 - Positive.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

There is a piped water supply to every parish within the District. All the Undertakings are owned by the District Council with the exception of the Scheme for Kewstoke; which Parish is within the water supply area of Weston-super-Mare. A few scattered areas in certain Parishes are still dependent upon private sources (usually good) and rainwater supplies. The carrying out of proposals for the areas in question will be put into effect as soon as the time is opportune. There are no large concentrations of premises outside the area of water supply.

By reason of prevailing conditions the sources of supply were heavily drawn upon but all demands made during the year were met.

1945:- Water Supplies afforded for the year ending 31st December

Domestic Supplies.	66
Metered Agricultural Supplies.	85
Other Metered Supplies, i.e. Building Supplies, Industrial, Hotel and Boarding House purposes.	13
Building Supplies - New houses.	7
Special Agreements.	2

During the year under review, the following extensions of water main were carried out:-

233 yards - 3" Spun Iron - HUTTON.
116 yards - 1" Galvd. - WEARE.

Statistics as affecting public water supplies in the Axbridge Rural District at 31st December 1945 are as follows:-

Total number of domestic premises in Rural District (excluding Kewstoke)...	6,804
Total number of domestic premises in Kewstoke (water supply area of Weston-super-Mare).	203
Total number of domestic premises piped supplied by Axbridge R.D.C. (excluding Kewstoke).	6,040
Total number of domestic premises piped supplied in Parish of Kewstoke - Weston Borough.	157

Metered Water Supplies afforded by
Axbridge R.D.C. (4 of which are in the
Parish of Kewstoke). 1,254

Note: 715 of the above-mentioned metered supplies include water supply for domestic purposes. 539 metered and special agreement water supplies are afforded for agricultural, industrial and other non-domestic purposes only.

Monthly bacteriological examination of the Council's Public Water Supplies were made at the Somerset County Council's Laboratory - such supplies proving to be excellent in quality and analytical samples submitted with a view to ascertaining the plumbosolvency of the waters proved negative. 84 samples were submitted in all

DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE.

The urgent necessity of Schemes of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for certain Parishes must be borne in mind, as also the re-construction of one Sewage Disposal Works. The Council are considering schemes of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for the Parishes of Congresbury and area; Axbridge, Wedmore and Bleadon - some of these Schemes being in course of preparation.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

A scheme for the collection of Refuse and Salvage throughout the whole of the District is in operation and has proved a success in reducing nuisances and a help with emergency measures.

SCAVENGING.

Co-operation with the Military has been maintained and Contract works for scavenging for the Military Authorities are still being carried out. A Cesspool Emptier is used in connection with Contracts and for private dwellings and is doing valuable work.

SUMMARY of SANITARY WORK DONE DURING the YEAR.

Dwelling-houses erected (private enterprise).	.. ..	4.
Houses and premises inspected (apart from re-inspections....)	.. ..	637.
Total inspections (including re-inspections).	.. ..	1,650.
Complaints investigated.	.. ..	127.
Written notices and letters sent.	.. ..	1,317.
Nuisances from keeping of animals abated.	.. ..	2.
Nuisances from accumulation of manure abated.	.. ..	103.
Sewers and Drains - re-laid or repaired.	.. ..	7.
New branch drains laid and premises connected to Sewer.	.. ..	5.
Complaints from overcrowding dealt with.	.. ..	2.
Premises provided with Public Water Supply.	.. ..	66.
Rooms, Classrooms and domestic offices disinfected and disinfectant.	.. ..	113.
Milk Samples taken.	.. ..	840.
Council House (518) and Requisitioned houses (73) - general maintenance repairs.	.. ..	1,274.

PERIODICALLY VISITED.

Registered Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors.	..	867
Registered Retail Purveyors.	.. ..	103
Private Slaughterhouses (all slaughtering carried out at Weston-super-Mare Public Abattoir).	..	19
Bakehouses.	.. ..	17
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.	.. ..	106

CAMPING SITES.

The continued use of Camping Sites as sites for stationing of Moveable Dwellings used for permanent habitation is still giving great concern. As firm a control as is possible is being maintained. Under the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 the following licences were approved or refused:-

Camping Site Licences.

Approved - 27
Refused - 3

Moveable Dwelling Licences.

Approved - 8
Refused - 1

SCHOOLS.

As previously stated, the question of improvement in the sanitary conditions of certain schools has again been emphasised by reason of increased use during the recent years. It is hoped that the responsible Authorities will give this matter early consideration.

I respectfully thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the advice and support so readily extended to me at all times. Also I beg to express my gratitude to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the Clerk and other Officers of the Council for their never failing co-operation and assistance. By reason of my resignation as Medical Officer of Health to the Axbridge R.D.C., consequent upon my taking up an appointment as Medical Officer to Christ's Hospital, Horsham, as from 1st June 1946, I have requested my successor as Medical Officer of Health to the Axbridge Council, Dr. R. S. Wathes, to sign the foregoing Report on my behalf.

I am, Your obedient servant,

June 1946.

THOMAS L. SCOTT.

R. S. Wathes